

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added.

Personal Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during an October 3, 2003, personal interview with Applicant's undersigned representative during which the outstanding rejections of record were discussed. Also during the interview, the connection point of the urging member was discussed. Applicant notes that the shaft portion 13a is fixed to the brackets 4 and rotates due to the elasticity of the cantilever 13, particularly the vertical rod portions 13b. The remainder of Applicant's separate record of the interview is contained in the remarks below.

Objection to Drawings

The Office Action requests corrected drawings.

Applicants have submitted herewith formal drawings for Figures 4-8 labeling Figures 4-8 as showing --Conventional Art--.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that any issues regarding the drawings are obviated.

Section 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Wiklund (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,947 B1 in view of Okano et al. (JP Pat. No. 10-169486). The Office Action somewhat similarly rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Wiklund in view of Okano et al. and further in view of Viano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,378,043). These rejections are traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Wiklund discloses "...a cantilever urging member 12,16 (Fig. 2) engaging with the seat back frame and the head rest frame to urge [the] headrest frame in a backward tilting direction from a rear portion" (see page 3, lines 3-4 of the Office Action).

As discussed during the personal interview, the asserted cantilever urging member 12,16 is clearly attached from the front of the asserted head rest frame (best seen in Figure 4 of Wiklund).

As stated in the present specification at page 8, lines 1-5, "the cantilever 13 [urging member] is arranged at the back of the head rest frame 11, whereby the cantilever 13 [urging member] is prevented from protruding forward and to the outer side in the width direction from the seat back frame 1. Accordingly, the human body M of the passenger is not interfered with the cantilever 13 and a reliable operation can be ensured."

In contrast, the asserted "cantilever urging member 12,16" does not urge the headrest in the backward tilting direction from a rear portion, as required by the present claims. The asserted "urging member 12,16" clearly protrudes forward and to the outer

side and the human body of a passenger could interfere with the reliable operation of the asserted "urging member 12,16."

According to Wiklund, "supports 24 are above and behind the articulated connection between the link arm 12 and the frame 9. The articulated connection 14 between the link arm 12 and the maneuvering means 10 is advantageously always in front of support 24" (column 4, lines 50-54, emphasis added).

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the asserted Wiklund "urging member 12,16" could not urge "the headrest frame in the backward tilting direction from a rear portion", as required by the present claims.

In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to make even more clear that the urging member urges "from a rear portion of the head rest frame".

As neither Nakano nor Viano et al., appear to teach or suggest an urging member that "urges the headrest frame in the backward tilting direction from a rear portion at the head rest frame," as required by the present claims, Applicant submits that the present claims would not have been obvious over any combination of the applied references.

Also, as was agreed during the personal interview, Viano et al. is clearly distinguishable from the present invention.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 and of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 108421-00026. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making references to attorney docket 108421-00026.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert K. Carpenter
Registration No. 34,794

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

RKC/tdd